


10-9-1854

Recollections of Europe in 1854. Professor Robley Dunglison's Introductory Lecture. Delivered October 9, 1854.

Robley Dunglison, MD

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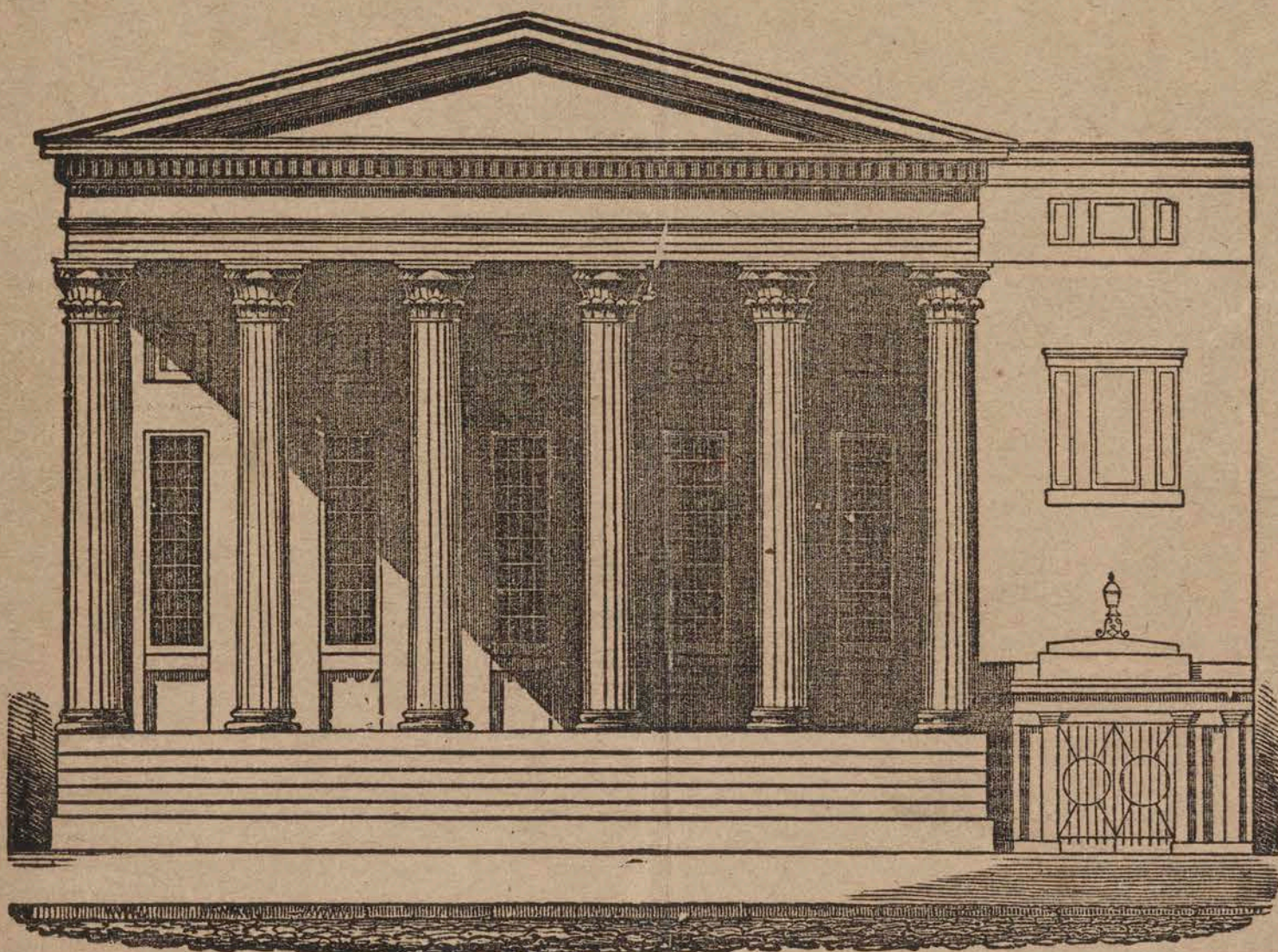
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U.S. Opening Addresses

Recollections of Europe in 1854.

PROFESSOR ROBLEY DUNGLISON'S

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE.



DELIVERED OCTOBER 9, 1854.

W. P. Fuelle

By Lawrence A

at the Court of the
County

Recollections of Europe in 1854.

AN

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE

TO THE

CLASS OF INSTITUTES OF MEDICINE, &c.

IN THE

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE.

DELIVERED OCTOBER 9, 1854,

BY

PROFESSOR ROBLEY DUNGLISON, M. D.

PHILADELPHIA:

T. K. AND P. G. COLLINS, PRINTERS.

1854.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
1892

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PHILADELPHIA, *October 19, 1854.*

DEAR SIR: The undersigned, a Special Committee,* in behalf of the Class of the Jefferson Medical College, most respectfully solicit a copy of your Introductory Address for publication.

Trusting you will accede to our request, and to the wishes of our fellow-students,

We remain yours, very respectfully,

R. AUGUSTUS JONES,
J. P. COLE,
DAVID FLOURNOY,
CHARLES FINLAY,
A. P. MOORE,
W. M. HUDSON.

TO PROF. DUNGLISON.

PHILADELPHIA, 18 GIRARD ST., *Oct. 21, 1854.*

GENTLEMEN: I have great pleasure in according with the request of the Class of Jefferson Medical College to have a copy of my Introductory Lecture for publication, and cheerfully place it at their disposal.

I am, with great respect and regard,

Faithfully yours,

ROBLEY DUNGLISON.

Messrs. R. AUGUSTUS JONES, J. P. COLE,
DAVID FLOURNOY, CHARLES FINLAY, } *Committee.*
A. P. MOORE, and W. M. HUDSON.

* The General Committee consisted of one gentleman from each State or country, as follows:—

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INTRODUCTORY LECTURE.

ONCE more, gentlemen, I have the gratification to commence a course of lectures from this place. It is the *nineteenth* occasion on which I have been permitted so to present myself,—the *fourteenth* under our present prosperous organization.

Since I last appeared before my class, I have been an extensive wanderer over various countries of Europe, and I flatter myself that it may not be altogether uninteresting to you to learn the results of my observation and reflection there. I intend, therefore, to occupy you with some desultory remarks on institutions and men of Europe, and especially on those belonging to our own profession. First of all, however, allow me to tender you all a most cordial WELCOME to this hall of science.

When I took leave of my class, at the termination of the last session, I announced to them my intention of revisiting the shores of the old continent, after an absence of thirty years. How many changes might be looked for after such a period! More than a generation had passed away. Men who, at that time, filled a large space in the public estimation, with whose reputation I had been long familiar, and with some of whom I had held frequent intercourse, had ceased to exist; whilst others had pressed forward to distinction, and were honorably occupying positions never to be attained without ample endowments industriously exerted.

It was especially pleasing to me to find some of those who had rendered themselves famous at that distant period, by illustrating the departments of science to which they had particularly devoted themselves, still laboring most meritoriously in the field of science, and regarded as shining lights for the guidance of their contemporaries and successors. Amongst these, it affords me the greatest

gratification to specify one, who is well known to all of you by name, the author of the admirable "*Dictionary of Practical Medicine*," my valued friend, Dr. Copland, of London. Associated with him, thirty years ago, as editor of the "*London Medical Repository*," in intimate relations with him at that period, I had ample opportunities for appreciating his sterling worth and extensive professional learning. As I have mentioned in the preface to the American edition of the "*Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine*," we had proposed, so long ago as the year 1824, to issue a work of the kind; but in the autumn of that year I left England for the University of Virginia, and the project was abandoned for a time, to be ultimately resumed by my able friend, alone and unaided; and, it must be admitted by all, that, when completed, it will be, as it even now is, in its unfinished condition, a monument *ære perennius* of the Herculean labour, and extensive knowledge of its accomplished author. He still is engaged in its completion, and I trust the time is not far distant when the last part will be in the hands of those who have eagerly watched, from time to time, for the tardy appearance of its predecessors. Actively and zealously he still pursues his honorable avocation; and under his hospitable roof I spent many days of real enjoyment.

It was, likewise, a source of satisfaction to me to become personally acquainted, amongst others, with one with whom I had frequently corresponded—Sir John Forbes—the author of many excellent scientific and literary works, and best known to us, perhaps, as the founder and editor of the "*British and Foreign Medical Review*," in the success of which, on this side of the Atlantic more especially, I took great and active interest,—not for the sake of its learned editor only, but because it was, in my opinion, the best medical review in existence; and, although it was unhappily never sufficiently remunerative, it gave him an extent of reputation, which he might not otherwise have as readily attained, and certainly disseminated sound professional information—foreign and domestic—not to be found in any similar periodical.

Sir John is full of intellectual and corporeal vigour, and, at the time of my visit, was assiduously engaged in devising plans for the reform of the profession in Great Britain, of which he is so distinguished an ornament; and in acknowledgment of which the order of knighthood was conferred on him by his sovereign. He

had invited me to spend some time with him on my return to England from the European Continent, but unforeseen circumstances rendered it impracticable for me to avail myself of his kindness.

As a primary object of my visit to Europe was to see near relatives, from some of whom I had been separated for thirty-six years, it was important for me so to husband my opportunities as to derive as much information as possible from the various institutions and objects of science in Great Britain and elsewhere, as the few months allotted me would permit. It would, obviously, be impracticable to witness, in detail, the clinical practice of the hospitals in individual cases, or to examine the various specimens contained in the rich anatomical and other museums. I determined, therefore, to restrict myself to a general view; and, under the guidance of those who were in every way competent, and who, at all times, and in all places, cheerfully and kindly volunteered and gave their valuable services, to pay more marked attention to objects of special interest, to which my observation might be directed. And how absorbing were many of these! At Manchester, soon after my landing in England, I inspected, with deep veneration, the relics, religiously preserved, of Dalton, the great author of the atomic theory, whose chemical laboratory, like that of Wollaston and of other celebrated chemists, would astonish those who are not aware what great results have been obtained in science by means of a limited apparatus. The room indicated how insignificant in number must have been the classes to which he lectured; and the small elucidatory diagrams, which he employed, are still religiously preserved. It is creditable to a city so much engaged in manufacturing industry, that it should have paid, and still continues—and, it is to be hoped, will ever continue—to pay so much honor to its illustrious townsman.

So, also, at the Royal Society, it was a work of love to examine portraits and busts of celebrated philosophers—the dead and the living; the originals of prints, which had been long familiar to me; the chair in which Newton so often sat; the manuscript of the "*Principia*" of that immortal *savant*, from which the great work was printed; the original safety-lamp of Sir Humphry Davy; the gilt mace, at one time thought to be the identical bauble cast out by Cromwell, but which has been shown by Mr. Weld,

the assistant secretary and antiquary—and it contains intrinsic evidence of the correctness of the view—to be of after date, and coeval with Charles the Second's reign, who was the first patron of the Society. It is, moreover, right royal in its emblems, and not likely, therefore, to have been preserved by the republic, if it had been in existence then.

But it will be impracticable for me to particularize the various objects of reverential interest, which recalled so vividly the past, in the different halls and depositories of science—general and medical—into which I was permitted to enter, in every country through which I travelled. It was a perpetually recurring portraiture of men and things appertaining to bygone periods, and replete with hallowed suggestions and associations.

Even more interesting was it to be thrown in communication with many venerated links, connecting the present with the past, in the chain of living worthies, who have shed lustre on their own times, and are of world-renown. Foremost amongst these stands the illustrious Alexander Von Humboldt. Although fourscore and five years old, he is active and energetic; full of vivacity; commanding as ever in his intellect; and adorning everything that he touches.

A short time passed with him, by appointment, was one of those social and intellectual privileges and enjoyments, which can rarely present themselves. Through the kind intervention of Professor Peters, of the University of Berlin, the able comparative anatomist and traveller, who has recently published a magnificent volume on the Fauna of South Africa from personal examination, I had an opportunity of seeing the venerable philosopher of Berlin. Most of his time is spent in Potsdam; and it is so far creditable to the taste of the present sovereign of Prussia, that he courts the society of his distinguished subject and friend; and that a seat—as I was informed—is always provided for him at the table of his king.

Of his achievements, it has been well said, that, “taken singly, there is not one, which has not been surpassed; but, taken together, they constitute a body of services rendered to science, such as is without parallel. The activity of naturalists is commonly directed either to accumulate rich materials in observations, or to combine such observations in a systematic manner, so as to derive,

from their diversity, one rational whole. Humboldt has done both so well, that his performances in either department would entitle him to admiration."

On the 24th of last August, the Royal Academy of Sciences of Berlin held an extraordinary public sitting, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the day when Humboldt was elected a member of it. A colossal marble bust of the illustrious man was placed in the hall where the sittings are held in honour of the occasion.

Well known throughout Europe, but in another department, is the venerable German historian and traveller, Von Raumer, whom I had the pleasure of visiting in Berlin. Eleven years ago, he came to this country, to inspect personally, as he then told me, and to witness the success of the "experiment of Jefferson;" and, on his return to Germany, he published an account of the United States, which indicated the possession of the same great powers of observation and judgment, that had gained him so much renown, in his "*History of the Hohenstaufens and their Times*," in his voluminous "*History of Europe*," and in numerous other productions of his pen, which are considered classic in Germany. It was gratifying to me to renew the acquaintance I had formed with him in this country.

With the octogenarian Von Hammer-Purgstall, of Vienna, the accomplished Orientalist and, at this time, perhaps the most renowned literary character of Austria, I had occasionally corresponded officially from this country. He was the friend and correspondent of my late eminent and venerable friend Mr. Duponceau, of this city. These, and other circumstances—such as his being a member of the American Philosophical Society, to which he had been elected on the proposition of Mr. Duponceau—were the occasion of his tendering me every facility in his power, for observing, in Vienna, matters of interest to a literary and scientific inquirer. At the time of my visit to that city, many of its distinguished *savans* had retired for the summer to their country residences; but this did not prevent several of them from aiding me efficiently in my investigations.

It was pleasing to observe the veneration entertained for those who, through long and often checkered lives, had done honor to their country, by the services they had rendered to science; and

the intense desire, felt by the intelligent everywhere, that the inquiring and philosophic stranger should be brought in contact with them. At the meetings of the Institute of France, whilst communications, often of excellence, were read by younger men, who are well known everywhere, the degree of attention bestowed by the auditors often appeared to me to be by no means commensurate with the importance of the subject, or the scientific eminence of the reporter; but as soon as such men as the venerable Thénard—the renowned chemist, whose reputation has already persisted for many lustres, and whose services to his important branch of science can never be obliterated—or the equally distinguished physicist, Biot, arose, the hum of voices was hushed on the instant, and the utmost anxiety was manifested to hear every syllable that fell from lips so venerated. It was a merited tribute to those who had successfully toiled for the advancement of their race; was well calculated to stimulate to exertion others, who were industriously and usefully treading in their footsteps; and reminded one of times, when

Credebant hoc grande nefas, et morte piandum,
Si juvenis vetulo non assurrexerat.

JUVENAL, SAT. XIII. 54.

Whilst in Paris, I was desirous to see M. Jomard, one of those aged *savans*, whose reputation has extended everywhere, and to whom I had a letter of introduction from the American Philosophical Society. With Mr. Walsh, Ex-Consul of the United States at Paris, and one of our most accomplished literati, I called upon him at the *Bibliothèque Impériale*, where he holds an important official position; but, unfortunately, he was in the country. I had an opportunity, however, of inspecting the apartments occupied by him in the Institution, which contained, with other gems, many rare specimens of antiquity,—for he is a distinguished antiquary, and has given to the world profound contributions on the antiquities of India and Egypt. In 1795, he was in the Polytechnic School; and in 1798 accompanied Napoleon to Egypt. He is one of the few surviving members of the Institute of Egypt, created at that time; and on the walls of his *sanctum* are seen the portraits of many of those well-known *savans*; and, amongst others, that of the celebrated Larrey, the illustrious army surgeon, the faithful attendant of Napoleon in many of his most glorious campaigns; in

consideration of whose devotion to his duty, the Emperor remarked, that "if ever the army should elevate a column to gratitude, it ought to erect it to Larrey;" and one of whose last acts was the well-known testamentary bequest—"I leave one hundred thousand francs to the surgeon-in-chief, Larrey, the most virtuous man I have ever known." Thirty-one years ago, I formed the acquaintance of this distinguished and amiable man, and received many attentions from him, during a short residence in Paris. Under the government of the Restoration, his eminent services to his country were overlooked, and there were too many of his compatriots, and of his scientific brethren, inglorious enough to be afraid to uphold his titles to consideration. He lived, however, to see scientific distinctions, which had been too long withheld, showered upon him; and since his death, the courtyard of the Hôpital du Val-de-Grace, of which he had long been a principal surgeon, and the hall of the Imperial Academy of Medicine, of which he was an active member, exhibit eloquent testimonials of the estimation in which he was held by his professional contemporaries.

As long ago as the year 1822, I had translated into English his memoir on the Moxa—one of the earliest of my medical productions. This circumstance attracted his attention to me, and was, doubtless, a main cause of the civilities he extended to me as a young sojourner in the French metropolis. I was equally indebted to it for a letter of introduction brought me, two years ago, by Dr. Brown Séquard, from the accomplished son of the great surgeon—Baron Hippolyte Larrey—who has succeeded his father in the Val-de-Grace Hospital, and is highly esteemed by his professional *confrères*. With deep interest, I was shown by him, in his own establishment, a suite of rooms dedicated to the relics of his illustrious father. The uniform he wore; the decorations bestowed upon him by his sovereign, the great Napoleon, and by others; the numerous presents which he had received, &c. &c., were all carefully preserved, and arranged with filial reverence, by one whose own career, thus far, has sufficiently shown that, under the same circumstances, he would have been not less distinguished as a benefactor of his kind than his great progenitor and prototype.

In consequence of the season of the year in which I travelled, there were not many reunions of the scientific men of the countries through which I passed.

In London, I had an opportunity, on the day of my arrival, of being at the Annual Meeting of the Sydenham Society, which was presided over by the venerable Dr. Latham, and at which several of the active members were present. This Society, as is known to many of those whom I am now addressing, was instituted, several years ago, "for the purpose of meeting certain acknowledged deficiencies in existing means for diffusing medical literature, which are not likely to be supplied by the efforts of individuals;" and its objects were designed to be carried into effect by a succession of publications embracing, among others: *First*. Reprints of standard English works, which are rare or expensive. *Secondly*. Miscellaneous selections from the ancient, and from the earlier modern authors, reprinted or translated. *Thirdly*. Digests of the works of old and voluminous authors, British and foreign, with occasional biographical and bibliographical notices. *Fourthly*. Translations of the Greek and Latin medical authors, and of works in the Arabic and other Eastern tongues, accompanied, when thought desirable, by the original text. *Fifthly*. Translations of recent foreign works of merit. *Sixthly*. Original works of merit, which might prove valuable as books of reference, but which would not otherwise be published, from the slender chance of their meeting with a remunerating sale; such as bibliographies, alphabetical and digested indexes to voluminous periodical publications, &c.

At the commencement of the Society, so impressed was I with the beneficial character of its objects, that I consented to act as an honorary local Secretary, and have taken much pains to diffuse a knowledge of it amongst my professional brethren. Many excellent works have been issued by it; and, annually, from this place, I have recommended to my young hearers to be members of the Society when they have become established in practice. No better nucleus for a library could be imagined.

At the meeting of the Society in London, I was called on by the able Honorary Secretary, Dr. James Risdon Bennett, to inform the members as to the feeling entertained towards it in America, and to offer any suggestions that might occur to me in regard to it. Thus appealed to, I stated the satisfaction with which I had regarded the action of the Society, and the kind of books which had been selected for publication; and added, that such I thought was the general sentiment in the United States. The Society is in a

flourishing condition; and although some of the works have appeared tardily, the delay has seemed to me to be almost inseparable from the very nature of the enterprise.

I was enabled to be present at one meeting only of the Royal Society of London, which was presided over by the Earl of Rosse, best known among us as the possessor of the admirably constructed colossal telescope, which has elucidated so many obscure points in astronomy; but to those, who are closely acquainted with him, he is highly estimated for the extent of his knowledge of that important branch of physical inquiry. At the invitation of Professor Sharpey, of the London University, and of Colonel Sabine, I was permitted, in the quality of stranger, to be present at the Philosophical Club of the Society, which is altogether composed of working members, who dine together on the Thursdays on which the Society does not hold its sessions, and at which the members present are requested to narrate anything of scientific novelty which may have occurred since their preceding meeting. On these occasions, too, matters are not unfrequently discussed which have to be subsequently presented to the Society. Communications of interest were made by Lord Rosse, my friend Prof. Carpenter, Prof. Grove, and others; and I do not know when I spent an evening of more agreeable and rational enjoyment.

A meeting of the Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society, under the presidency of Dr. Copland, with whom I was then residing; the meetings of the Royal Institution, and the annual meetings of the Pharmaceutical and Royal Geographical Societies brought me in contact with many distinguished characters, whom I had not met in private or elsewhere. The *conversazioni* of the Royal Society, held at the house of the noble President, are, however, the most extensive reunions of men eminent in their various pursuits, and enable the scientific stranger to become acquainted with those whom he is desirous of knowing, and for which every facility is afforded him. In these reunions, I met with many persons whom it would otherwise have been difficult for me to see during the period to which my sojourn in the British metropolis was necessarily limited.

It luckily happened, that on the only day I remained at Brussels, I was enabled, through the kindness of M. Quetelet, the perpetual Secretary, whose scientific labors are known everywhere, to be present at a *séance* of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Brussels,

which was attended by *savans* from Brussels and various parts of Belgium, with whose names I had been familiar. Of the work of one of them, M. Gluge, on Pathological Histology, I had recommended the translation to MM. Blanchard & Lea, which was executed by Professor Leidy, of the University of Pennsylvania, and is, doubtless, known to many of you. Before I was aware of the hour at which the meeting of the Academy would be held, I had determined to proceed to Paris by a train, which compelled me to leave before its termination. Of the activity of the Society, ample evidence is afforded in its published transactions and proceedings; and in the immense amount of intellectual labor undertaken by its gifted Secretary. As a general physicist, and as an astronomer, M. Quetelet is constantly communicating to the world the valuable results of his observations; and the Central Commission of Statistics, over which he presides, and of which I have long been a corresponding member, annually issues an amount of information in regard to the statistics of Belgium, which is astonishing. As anthropologists, we are indebted to him for his admirable work "On Man," which was published in an English form by the Brothers Chambers, of Edinburgh.

Perhaps there is no scientific association, whose action is more energetic than the Institute of France. It may be regarded as the great centre of scientific effort in the French metropolis, and, at its meetings, the stranger is sure to be brought in contact with those whom he may be most desirous of seeing. Through the kindness of the accomplished Professor Flourens, one of the perpetual secretaries—to whom I shall have to refer in the course of my lectures, for his important labors in physiology—I was enabled to be present at two of its sittings, and to be introduced to many prominent members. At one of the meetings, M. Rayer, a physician of the Hôpital La Charité, and the author of splendid works on diseases of the skin and of the kidneys, besides other valuable contributions to our science, rose, and stated to the Institute, that a German physician, a M. Schiff, had discovered that the *frappeurs* or "rappers" produced the noise that gives them their designation by the displacement of the tendon of the peronæus longus muscle, and that he was ready to produce the sounds before them. M. Schiff appeared, and succeeded in making the rappings distinctly audible. The explanation was evidently novel to the auditors, and

elicited marks of astonishment and satisfaction. On leaving the hall of the Institute, I observed to some of my friends, and also to M. Schiff, that a similar explanation had been given, some years ago, in the "*Buffalo Medical Journal*," by my friend Professor Flint, of that city; and the same evening, having met with M. Schiff, at the house of M. Rayer, who had kindly invited me to meet M. Bernard, the eminent physiologist, I gave him, at greater length, the explanation of Dr. Flint, promising to send him the number of the Journal on my return to the United States. Immediately before leaving Paris, having heard that Dr. Flint was in that city, I requested a mutual friend to inform him of what had occurred at the Institute; and had the pleasure of learning from him, when I met him afterwards in Edinburgh, and subsequently, as my fellow-voyager on board the Pacific, that he had written a letter to M. Rayer, which was read before the Institute, and is noticed, I see, in the "*Comptes-Rendus*," detailing how he had ingeniously detected the mode in which the "Rochester girls" had caused so much astonishment by their mysterious rappings. Under the idea that they were owing to the sudden displacement of bony or tendinous parts, it occurred to the investigator that if the young women were deprived of a firm *point d'appui* for their heels, the action might be prevented. They consented to the experiment suggested, which consisted in causing them to rest their feet on a soft pillow. The result was triumphant. No sound whatever could be elicited.

The sittings of the Institute are held every Monday afternoon. They are well attended by the members, and ample accommodations are afforded for more distinguished visitors in the centre; and for the public around.

The only purely medical societies of Continental Europe, which I was able to attend, were the Imperial Academy of Medicine of Paris, to which I was introduced by Baron Larrey, and the Imperial Academy of Medicine of Vienna, to which I was invited by Professor Sigmund, and which was presided over by Professor Oppolzer. At both of those I had the pleasure of meeting professional brethren who had been long known to me by their works.

The mode of conducting business is much the same as here, excepting that in the French Academy the speaker who has the tribune, and has prepared himself in advance for the discussion of a known topic, is not so liable to be interrupted as with us; but is, perhaps,

more apt to be unnecessarily prolix. The subject before the *Académie*, on the occasion of my visit, was an instrument for the rectification of uterine displacements, proposed by a distinguished friend, whose kindness I can never forget, Professor Simpson, of Edinburgh, and modified by M. Valleix, of Paris; and the whole session was occupied by the remarks of an eminent obstetrician, who was by no means favorable to it, and who did not succeed in retaining all his auditors until he had concluded. At the next meeting the tribune would be taken by some other member; and thus, it can be readily understood, a single subject may and does occupy the *Académie* for many sittings, and not unfrequently is the means of excluding other matters of perhaps greater interest.

As I before remarked, it was impracticable for me to witness, in detail, the clinical practice of the hospitals in individual cases, or to examine the various specimens contained in the rich anatomical and other museums; but, I was desirous, wherever opportunity presented itself, of inspecting the general arrangements of the hospitals, and the contents of public and private museums.

On my way to London I visited some of the larger provincial hospitals; but in those, as well as in the hospitals of London, Paris, and Vienna, I did not find, in the older establishments especially, that attention to warming and ventilation, which I had expected from the ample discussions and various experiments that had been instituted. It was difficult, indeed, to imagine anything more crude and unsatisfactory than the arrangements in many of them. Amongst the most complete were the hospital La Ribosière, of Paris, formerly called Hôpital du Nord, and Hôpital Louis Philippe, over which I was conducted by M. Lallier, *Médecin des Hôpitaux*, and M. Beylard, formerly of this city, and now an estimable physician of Paris, from whom I received every attention during my short sojourn in that city. In that magnificent establishment no expense has been spared to render it eminently adapted for its important purposes. A similar care has been bestowed on the great hospital at Rotterdam, which has been recently erected; but, in all the requisites for the comfort of the inmates, and in the arrangements for the proper management of the sick, I have seen no institutions of the kind which appeared to me to exceed, and few to equal, the Massachusetts General Hospital, of Boston, or the Pennsylvania Hospital, of this city; and I only

instance those, because I am more familiar with them than with other establishments of a similar kind in our country. The imperfect ventilation of the British Houses of Parliament, undertaken and executed at an enormous cost, and the inefficient means employed in some other places, have given occasion to so much distrust and dissatisfaction with plans of ventilation in general, that I heard even scientific gentlemen declare, that they were in favor of returning to the old method of open fireplaces, without any inlet for the supply of fresh air, except by crannies through the doors and windows,—certainly one of the least satisfactory of all plans that have been devised and put in execution.

In many of the hospitals the wards are crowded with patients; the ceilings low; and, in several of them, the window-sills are so high that even when the doors and windows are open, it must be difficult to renew the air. This is bad enough for adults, whilst for children it must be disastrous. I found the impression prevailing that the plan of warming by furnaces, so common with us, will not answer in England. It does not appear, however, to have been sufficiently tried; and, most assuredly, anything would be better than schemes of ventilation adopted in some of the hospitals; one of which is, to have openings into the wards through the external walls, which communicate with the outer air, and are capable of being closed, partially or wholly, by trap-doors moving on hinges.

The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, and the University with its museums and library, over which I was most courteously conducted by Professors Simpson and Bennett, and Dr. Douglas Maclagan, vividly reminded me of times long past, when, day after day, as a zealous student, I listened to eloquent lectures delivered by renowned professors, not one of whom is now living. The Infirmary has been greatly changed; and, whilst some of its wards are in essentially the same condition as when I formerly trod them, attending the clinical expositions of Professors Home and Rutherford, numerous improvements and extensions have been made in other portions of the establishment. Soon after my visit to the Infirmary, I had the pleasure of greeting one of our graduates of last year, who called upon me at Professor Simpson's, and informed me that he was acting as temporary *interne* in the Infirmary.

Regarded in all its varied departments, the *Allgemeine Krankenhaus* or General Hospital, of Vienna, is the most extensive of

those I visited. It contains beds for 2000 persons; and in the maternity department, as I was informed, 6000 females are delivered in the course of the year. Owing to governmental difficulties that exist in many of the countries of Continental Europe to parties entering into the marriage state, and to other causes, the number of illegitimate births is there in very large proportion. In the chief reading-room of Vienna, to which I was introduced by Dr. Noyes, a young American physician, to whom I am indebted for many facilities whilst I was in the metropolis of Austria, I found a statement in a French journal of political economy, which astonished me. I know not, however, the degree of dependence that may be placed upon it. It stated that, of every 100 births, between the years 1830 and 1847, the legitimate at Klagenfurt were 53; at Vienna, 47; at Lemberg and Prague, 44; at Brunn, 42; at Lintz, 39; at Laybach, 35; at Milan, 29; at Troppau, 26; at Zea, 25; at Innsbruck, 20; and at Venice, 15.

The "*Aerztlicher Bericht*,"* or medical report of the cases and their treatment in the Vienna Hospital, may serve as a model for such publications. It is not only valuable for its statistical, but for its pathological and therapeutical information.

The new hospital for consumption at Brompton is exciting much interest and attention in London. I had doubts whether it was well so to designate it, as it might lead patients to regard it as an institution for incurables; but the resident medical officer—Mr. Edwards—informed me, that such has not been the fact, and that patients freely go thither with the expectation of being cured. No medical report has been printed since 1849; and I was desirous to know whether the after experience of the medical officers coincided with that report, as regarded the favorable action of cod-liver oil, and was answered in the affirmative. Mr. Edwards agreed with me that its agency is rather dietetic than medicinal. Nutrition is modified under its use; and a beneficial change is thus accomplished. In the last edition of my "*General Therapeutics and Materia Medica*" (1853), I stated that in the winter clinic of the Jefferson Medical College, I had often prescribed what, for convenience, I termed "*oleum cetaceum*," that is, common sperm

* *Aerztlicher Bericht über das k. k. Allgemeine-Krankenhaus zu Wien im Solar-Jahr, 1852. Wien, 1854.*

oil, purified by animal charcoal; and that I had no reason for placing its virtues in an inferior rank to those of cod-liver oil;—and I quoted from the report of the London Hospital for Consumption, for 1849, that the experiments hitherto made there, with other animal oils besides those of the liver of the cod, and with vegetable oils, had not shown them to possess the same powers; but that those experiments had not been sufficiently often repeated to warrant a decided conclusion. Since then, they have arrived at results somewhat more definite. They use, also, whale oil, and have an “oleum cetaceum,” but they do not think it as good as the oleum morrhuæ or cod-liver oil. Indeed, the second in virtue is considered to be cocoa-nut oil, *coco-oleine*; next, neat’s foot oil, and then the oleum cetaceum; showing so far as observation in that hospital goes—and it is confirmative of my own—that it is not necessary for the oil to be either ioduretted or animal.

It may seem strange that the system of hospital ventilation and warming should be so inefficient, where so much has been done, and done effectually, for sanitary improvement. In every country town which I visited in Great Britain, the municipal authorities and the magistracy were intensely busied with this important matter; and there can be little doubt, that under the amelioration which has been effected, spreading pestilences have been deprived of much of their horrors.

The results are well illustrated by the operation of the metropolitan societies for improving the dwellings of the industrious classes. The main causes of the excessive sickness and mortality, disclosed by the returns of the registrar-general of births, marriages, and deaths, in England, had been—it was conceived—distinctly traced to the condition of the houses of the labouring classes, and had sufficiently demonstrated, “in certain definite conditions in and about those wretched abodes, the true sources of those constantly recurring epidemics, which swept away one-half of the children born, while yet in childhood; destroyed by fever the heads of families in the prime of life, and deprived the whole of this class of the population of more than one-third of the natural term of existence.”*

* Results of Sanitary Improvement, illustrated by the operation of the metropolitan societies for improving the dwellings of the industrious classes, the working of the common lodging-houses act, &c. By Southwood Smith, M. D., London, 1854.

Convinced, that this unhappy condition admitted of remedy, an association of a few individuals was formed, whose plan was to erect a large building divided into *suites* of apartments, capable of accommodating a number of families, and provided with the following sanitary conditions : *First*. The thorough subsoil drainage of the site. *Secondly*. The free admission of air and light to every inhabited room. *Thirdly*. The abolition of the cess-pool, and the substitution of the water-closet, involving complete house-drainage. *Fourthly*. An abundant supply of pure water ; and, *fifthly*. Means for the immediate removal of all solid house refuse not capable of suspension in water, and of being carried off by water.

It was believed to be practicable to erect healthy and comfortable houses, fit for the laborer and artisan, and to offer such improved dwellings at no higher rate than was paid for inferior and unhealthy houses. About five years ago, buildings, called "Metropolitan," were opened for residents, in Old Pancras Road, a crowded neighborhood, occupied almost entirely by the working classes ; and, if a comparison be made, as regards the rate of mortality, the absence of sickness and the general condition of the inhabitants between the metropolitan buildings and one of the worst districts of the British metropolis, the results will be found to stand out most triumphantly. There is in Kensington Parish, a place called the "Potteries," which is wholly destitute of the sanitary provisions secured to the improved dwellings. Until recently, it had no drainage, and, even now, there is little that is effectual. It has no supply of water ; no means for the removal of filth ; and the houses are damp, dirty, and miserable beyond description or belief.

Now, the comparative vital statistics, *first*, with respect to persons of all ages ; and, *secondly*, with respect to children under ten years of age, have demonstrated, that the deaths from all causes, in the whole of London, were, in proportion to the population, three times more than in the Metropolitan Buildings ; and in the Potteries, nearly six times more ; and that the deaths from all causes, among children under ten years of age, were, in proportion to the population, in London generally, four and a half times more numerous ; and, in the Potteries, ten times more numerous than in the Metropolitan Buildings ; whilst the deaths from

zymotic disease among these children were, in London generally, twice, and, in the Potteries, five and a half times as many as in the Metropolitan Buildings. "If the deaths," says Dr. Southwood Smith, "in the whole of the Metropolis had been at the same rate as in the Potteries, there would have died in London, in that year, 94,950 persons, whereas the actual deaths were 54,213; that is, there would have been a loss of upwards of 40,000 lives; and if the whole of the Metropolis had been as healthy as the Metropolitan Buildings, Old Pancras Road, on an average of the three years, there would have been an annual saving of about 23,000 lives."

There is another point of view in which the healthy condition of the improved dwellings presents a remarkable contrast to that of the general population, namely, in the absence of the various forms of continued fever, of which typhus may be taken as an example. In London generally, the average deaths from typhus and other forms of continued fever amount to about 12 per cent. of the total deaths.

In some of the worst Metropolitan districts, typhus sometimes prevails in almost every house in a street or court; and there are instances in which upwards of twenty cases have occurred in a single house, in the course of a few weeks. There has been no case of typhus fever in any one of the improved dwellings since they were first opened.

The philanthropic traveller cannot fail to be impressed with the overwhelming interest felt in every part of Great Britain in the improvement of the health of localities. This gives occasion to municipal regulations, that are, at times, esteemed oppressive, but the salutary effects of which admit of no cavil.

During my journey, I visited, for a short time, some of the *sanitaria* which are the chosen retreats, during a portion of the summer, of numerous valetudinarians, not only from every part of Europe, but from this country. I may instance Baden-Baden, Wisbaden, and Homburg. The waters at Baden-Baden and Wisbaden are indebted for their medicinal properties almost wholly to their elevated temperature, which, at the latter (Wisbaden), is as high as 160° of Fahrenheit; the main saline ingredient being chloride of sodium or common salt. Those of Homburg are highly carbonated; and the different waters have been arranged, chemically, under six

groups—the sulphurous, chalybeate, alkaline, gaseous, saline, and bromo-ioduretted. They reminded me greatly of the Saratoga waters, to which, I am satisfied, they are in no medicinal properties superior.

The result of all my observations confirmed me in the opinion I have so often expressed, in public and in private, that the diseases which are benefited by a visit to watering-places are chiefly such as are removable by simple change of air, society, and scenery. “We can thus,” as I have elsewhere remarked, “understand the reputation acquired by the inert Bath and the Matlock waters of England, the latter of which have scarcely any solid ingredient: and yet what crowds flock to those agreeable watering-places; to the former, for the perpetual amusements that keep the mind engaged, and cause it to react beneficially on the corporeal or mental malady; to the latter, for the enjoyment of the beauties of nature for which Derbyshire is so celebrated.”

These German springs are delightfully situated. It is not easy to imagine a more charming retreat than Baden-Baden. The *Conversationshaus* or gaming-saloon, at all of them, is under the immediate patronage of the Government, to which it brings in a large revenue; and is, doubtless, and unhappily, an attraction to many. The country around is mountainous and picturesque; the drives and walks are beautiful, and the society, as a matter of course, is generally constituted of those whose means have enabled them to become educated and refined. It is not surprising, therefore, that change of air, travelling exercise, varied society and scenery, absence from domestic or commercial cares, and greater regularity of living than invalids have been perhaps accustomed to at home, should effect astonishing results, and that the waters should often acquire a credit, which ought rather to have been ascribed to other influences. It cannot be doubted, however, that many of these waters are excellent therapeutical agents. The thermal springs—of which we have as good examples in the Hot and Warm Springs of Virginia as exist in any country—have the great advantage that, whilst the patient is immersed in them, or in their vapor, he continues in a medium of the same unvarying temperature.

Yet, although much good may result, in individual cases, from the employment of mineral-waters in this country and elsewhere, when drunk at their source, I have had too many opportunities for

witnessing their bad effects when they have been employed indiscriminately, and without due caution or proper directions. I heard of cases of death that had occurred at Wisbaden in the vapor-baths; and Dr. Prytherch, Resident Physician at Homburg, who kindly accompanied me to the different mineral sources there, and has published "*Observations on the Mineral Waters of Homburg*," informed me that the fees paid him for professional services from those who went to Homburg as invalids were insignificant, compared with what he received from those who *became* sick from an improper use of the waters. I told him that such had long been the inferences I had drawn from my own observation at other springs.

I am satisfied that, in our own country, we possess mineral waters as valuable as those to be met with anywhere, and that the good effect of those I have mentioned is often owing to a variety of causes of an extrinsic nature; but mainly to the entire change in the organic actions produced by the journey thither, and the new circumstances under which the valetudinarian is placed.

In regard to exclusive systems—offshoots from legitimate medicine—I had not many opportunities of hearing much. Homœopathy appeared to me to prevail more in London than elsewhere; certainly, I think, more than in Edinburgh. Notwithstanding its adoption by the Professor of Pathology in the University of Edinburgh, it seemed to have met with less favor there. In Vienna, M. Rokitansky informed me, that he knew of none of the younger men practising it, but that one or two of the older and original practitioners are still much employed.

Of the *Wasserkur*—water-cure or hydropathy—I heard scarcely anything. On my journey, I met with some friends, who were on their way from Berlin to Switzerland to a hydropathic establishment—as much, it appeared to me, to enjoy themselves as tourists as to be benefited as invalids; but I do not recollect that the subject of hydropathy, or of kinesipathy or medical gymnastics for the cure of chronic disease, or of the *Traubenkur* or grape-cure—all German or Scandinavian in their origin—ever engaged the conversation of any scientific company.

Of exclusive systems, I saw most of the *Molkenkur* or whey-cure. In the *Kursaal* of the German watering-places a space is set apart for the whey-drinkers, who are numerous; and at Baden-Baden and Homburg the quantity drunk by invalids and others really almost

passes belief. It is a pleasant diluent, and the saccharine matter contained in it may serve a useful purpose in nutrition. Yet all observation shows that, in order that its full beneficial effects on disease shall be apparent, it must be drunk at the springs; and hence, as in the case of mineral waters themselves, the main sanative results may rather be referred, in most cases, to other influences.

In conclusion, you will be curious to learn what my general impressions are, in regard to the condition of our profession, and the facilities for medical instruction in Europe, as compared with our own. Nowhere have I found its social position as high as with us. In the monarchies of Europe, as you well know, there are distinctions which are the result of adventitious circumstances, as of birth, which no amount of intellect or of virtue can enable its possessor to reach; whilst with us a member of so dignified and beneficent a calling, if learned and honorable, is everywhere ranked amongst the wisest and the best, and is acknowledged to have no superior.

The preliminary education of our European medical brethren is, as a general rule, more attended to, and consequently more complete. With them, a knowledge of the languages of antiquity, especially of the Latin, is considered to be indispensable—not so much to befit them for the exercise of their avocation as for the companionship of the most cultivated in the land.

The value of an acquaintance with the Latin language I had repeated opportunities for proving during my travels on the European continent; when, from accidental causes, the modern languages were not wholly available to me. Dr. Lenhossek, of Vienna, a Hungarian by birth, preferred to explain to me in that tongue his beautiful histological specimens of the nervous system; and with the distinguished Dutch physiologist Schroeder van der Kolk, of Utrecht, I had, for nearly three hours, a most interesting conversation, chiefly in Latin, on physiological topics. Their mode of pronunciation is somewhat different from ours, but the difference is readily appreciated and acquired; and, owing to the absence of inversion in the sentences, so universal in the written language of antiquity, it was occasionally more easy for me to follow the speaker than when he expressed himself in his own tongue.

In many of the seats of medical education in Europe, their hospital advantages are great; whilst in others, and in by no means the

least famous, they are greatly restricted. The sick there more readily seek the hospitals than with us, and hence the ratio of hospitals to the population is more considerable; and, in addition, there are institutions set apart for special diseases, and at which they can, of course, be more advantageously studied. Yet I was surprised, even in many of the large capitals, to see so few students actively engaged in the acquisition of information at the bedside. I do not think that anywhere, even with men of world-wide renown as clinical teachers, I saw more than a dozen or two follow them round the wards, from bed to bed. At the clinical lectures, however, away from the bedside, they attended more numerously. It is true that my visit was made during the summer season, when the attendance of pupils is at its minimum.

Connected with, or in the atmosphere of, the large medical schools, especially on the continent of Europe, are many lecture-ships on specialties—cutaneous diseases, syphilis, auscultation and percussion, operative surgery, microscopy, &c.—which are usually filled by able teachers, under whom the student may become practised and skilful, should he be desirous of devoting himself mainly to some particular department. Such specialties are becoming more and more multiplied among us, and there is advantage in them: the only danger is, that devotion to one department may lead the student to neglect others, which might ultimately be of greater moment to him. I met, indeed, with gentlemen celebrated as teachers of specialties, who by no means impressed me with the great extent of their knowledge, either professional or general.

Destined, as the medical student almost always is, in this country, to be a general practitioner, it is essential that no branch of the art should be neglected by him.

But if it be admitted that, as a general rule, the preliminary education of the medical practitioner is more ample abroad than with us, it must be equally admitted, that nowhere, perhaps, is there as much attention paid to the current medical literature as here. In almost every company abroad, the extent of the sale of approved medical works in this country was a matter of comment and of astonishment; and it was admitted that the profession generally in the United States read more than in Europe. Undoubtedly, too, we are more cosmopolitan than any other people. Our best published treatises contain the results of approved observation

and reflection from every part of the civilized world; and next to them may be classed those of England. The German works follow in succession; whilst, too frequently, those of France are confined to what has been done in that country, and, at times, to the observations and speculations of the authors themselves, little or no regard being had to the labors of others.

As respects the methods of instruction in the higher medical schools, I did not learn that they differed essentially from our own. The greater number of sessions, and the prescribed summer attendance in most of them, admit, however, of a classification somewhat different from ours, and more progressive; so that, even in a medical school which numbered upwards of a thousand pupils, there was no class approaching in numbers that to which I lectured during the last session; and it was a frequent remark of admiration in the society of my medical brethren abroad, that I lectured in America to a class of upwards of six hundred pupils.

Everywhere, noble museums are to be met with, which have been prepared and collected by the consummate skill and industry of ages, and are freely thrown open to the public, and especially to the professional inquirer. The pathological specimens are rich in the evidences of the ravages committed on organs by disease; but they were less interesting to me than the results of histological inquiries by means of the microscope, which are calculated to bring us nearer to—although still far removed from—a correct knowledge of the morbid action of the tissues; for it is in the action of the living formative cells or molecules, that we must place all healthy as well as diseased nutrition. Much has been done, and is still being done, in this direction, and I am by no means prepared to admit, with an eminent Edinburgh friend and professor,—who has himself made important contributions to histology, and is destined, I trust, to make many more,—that the microscope has perhaps effected almost everything of which it is capable; and that, for further progress, we must look to organic chemistry. Yet, as I remarked to him, we must not expect too much from it; for, after all, what we require is the perhaps unattainable chemistry of living action, which the chemistry of dead matter can never unfold, before we can appreciate the precise *modus operandi* of either healthy or diseased nutrition.

With Professors Carpenter, of London, John Hughes Bennett,

of Edinburgh, and Coste, of Paris, who has recently been much engaged, under the auspices of the French government, with "Pisciculture" or the artificial fecundation of fish, on which he has recently published a valuable *brochure* ;* with Professors Brücke, of Vienna; Johannes Müller, of Berlin; Budge, of Bonn; Schroeder van der Kolk, of Utrecht, and other distinguished physiologists, I had interviews full of interest to me; and all were eager to exhibit and expound to me their public and private histological and other collections.

For the various lectures, which required illustration, I found the same methods in use as with us. Everywhere almost, the eye is addressed by varied representations; and teaching by demonstration is properly regarded as indispensable. It may seem, perhaps, of questionable taste; or, if not, my impartiality may be doubted, when I say, that our own advantages for successful teaching compare not unfavorably with those that are presented abroad. I deem it, however, my duty to express to you frankly the sentiments I honestly entertain. Of our ability it does not become me to speak so strongly as of our zeal, which is unbounded. Our museums and means of illustration are ample; and our clinics such as I have certainly not seen surpassed elsewhere. The great results, indeed, of my travels have been such as to make me content with the country in which my lot has been cast; and to satisfy me that we have in our possession all the means for progress, which, if properly employed, cannot fail to lead us to honor and glory.

In our own profession, the young and energetic inquirer has every facility in this country for becoming learned, useful, and eminent in his profession. He need not cast his regards far around him, without being able to rest them on men, who have attained the loftiest position without ever having left their own shores.

I have not unfrequently, from this place, affirmed my conviction, that so far as respects the mere attainment of professional knowledge, the best time for the student to visit the European seats of science is not immediately after graduation. A friend and professor, of whose impartiality and judgment I have a high opinion, and

* Instructions pratiques sur la Pisciculture suivies de Mémoires et de Rapports sur le même Sujet, Paris, 1853. Recently translated and published in this country by Mr. W. H. Fry.

who accompanied me on my return voyage, was even more forcibly impressed, from the results of his own observation, with the correctness of this view; and similar sentiments are expressed, in his "*Professional Reminiscences of Foreign Travel*," by Professor Walter Channing, late of Harvard University. "Another question," he remarks, "occurred to me in this late visit to Europe. It was, if it would not be better to visit foreign countries, and mainly for professional purposes, some years—say ten or fifteen—after beginning practice at home. My first visit to Europe was made after getting my degree, and after a not very long, but very fruitless exercise of that patience, which, in the young physician 'hopeth all things.' I was gone between one and two years. I was never so fully convinced of the mistake I made in the time of that visit, as during my recent one, made forty-two years after the first. I had not then learned my wants. I had not learned how little I had then acquired. The old routine of lectures, &c., was pretty faithfully pursued, with some of its ordinary results. I cannot but think, after my later experience, that half the time then bestowed on foreign travel and study would, at a later period, have been productive of much more advantage to me than was the whole earlier time, which was devoted to the same objects."

Let us, then, cherish the eminent advantages we possess at home for the successful study of our profession; and, at the same time, be ever on the alert to draw in from foreign sources whatever may add to the richness of our accumulations.

Blumgarten -